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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MADE A BIRD SANCTUARY -----

By act of Congress approved July 14, the District of Columbia is in effect made a bird sanctuary. The new law repeals the provision of the District of Columbia game law of 1906 that allowed shooting on parts of the Eastern Branch and on parts of the Virginia side of the Potomac River within the District.

"The main effect of the new law," said Paul G. Redington, Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, of the United States Department of Agriculture, in commenting on this latest addition to the extensive game-bird refuges of the country, with which his bureau is concerned, "is to protect waterfowl on all waters of the District. With the cooperation of the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks, under the direction of Col. U. S. Grant, 3d, and of individuals and organizations interested in the birds of the District, and with the hearty support of the game conservation authorities of both Maryland and Virginia, the bill was introduced in Congress by Senator Tydings and Representative Palmisano, both of Maryland.

"For years," said Mr. Redington, "the people of the District and the many visitors to the Capital City have been thrilled by the large numbers of ducks and other birds that in fall and winter have frequented the river off Hains Point and Potomac Park. Many of these wildfowl remain in this vicinity until April or May, and their presence should hereafter be more or less constant

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during the period they spend in this general region. Disburbance of the birds by gunning lower down the river is likely to have a tendency to concentrate them in the District waters, where, under the new act, they will be unmolested.

"The broad flats of the main part of the Potomac, with their wild celery beds and other duck food plants, should supply an abundance of natural food for waterfowl," he said, "and if this is supplemented by artificial feeding at suitable places on the river, possibly on the Tidal Basin, and elsewhere, it will undoubtedly make it possible for visitors to enjoy seeing a near-at-hand concentration of many of our interesting species of wild fowl. In addition to these birds, herons, egrets, and other interesting species of large wild fowl may be seen off Potomac Park in summer. These opportunities to see these birds from automobile roads is one scarcely equalled in any other large city of the country."

Mr. Redington expressed his confidence that as the years go by the birds thus protected within the District will increase in numbers on the local waters. "Their presence," he said, "and their enjoyment by the people, will be very similar to the situation found at Lake Merritt, in Oakland, California, where wild ducks have for many years been one of the chief attractions the area holds for residents of the cities on San Francisco Bay. On the District waters, it is my understanding that Col. U. S. Grant, 3d, who is in charge of the public parks, plans to provide such feeding places as may be necessary to attract the birds, not only for the benefit of the birds themselves but also for the enjoyment of Washingtonians and of the great numbers of visitors to the capital. Living either for a time or permanently in the midst of a bird sanctuary will enable the people to become more intimately familiar with the birds and with the desirability of protecting them as a valuable and interesting natural resource."

The administration of this, as with most other laws affecting the District, comes under the Metropolitan Police. In addition, the United States game protector for the Biological Survey stationed in Washington, and his deputies, will cooperate with the District authorities in maintaining this important sanctuary for birds.